

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of a wood body having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising impregnating an untreated wood body ~~is impregnated~~ with an aqueous solution of

A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof, and

B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of the metal salts, ~~or~~ ammonium salts, organic acids, ~~or~~ inorganic acids ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof,

and then ~~hardened~~ hardening while maintaining humid conditions at elevated temperature.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the impregnating agent used is

A) 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof, ~~or mixtures thereof~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the impregnating agent used is A) 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein an impregnating agent C) selected from the group
consisting of a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol, ethylene
glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol,
glycerol, polyethylene glycols of the formula HO(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where n is from 3 to 20, or
mixtures thereof are concomitantly used.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein methanol, diethylene glycol or a mixture thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnating agents A) and, ~~if appropriate,~~
optionally C) are used in a concentration of from 1 to 60% by weight in the aqueous solution.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of metal
halides, metal sulfates, metal nitrates, metal tetrafluoroborates, metal phosphates ~~or~~ and
mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride,

magnesium sulfate, zinc chloride, lithium chloride, lithium bromide, boron trifluoride, aluminum chloride, aluminum sulfate, zinc nitrate, sodium tetrafluoroborate ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein ammonium salts selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium oxalate, diammonium phosphate ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein organic or inorganic acids selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, formic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, oxalic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, boric acid ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 11,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein magnesium chloride is used as catalyst B).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 12,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst B) is used in a concentration of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the amount of the impregnating agents A) and, ~~if appropriate~~ optionally, C).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 13,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative
humidity of from 50 to 100%.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 80 to
100%.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a
temperature of from 70 to 130°C.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 16,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened over a period
of from 1 to 72 hours.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 17,~~
~~characterized in that,~~ claim 1, wherein after the impregnation, the wood body is fixed so that
a change in the shape of the wood body during the hardening is counteracted.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A wood body having high durability, dimensional
stability and surface hardness, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1~~
~~to 18~~ claim 1.